के कार्यालयों द्वारा किया गया। क्षतिपूरक वनीकरण के अन्तर्गत के क्षेत्र का निरीक्षण भारत सरकार द्वारा अंतिम मंजूरी दिए जाने तथा प्रयोक्ता एजेंसी द्वारा क्षतिपूरक वनीकरण शुरू करने के बाद ही किया जाएगा।

(घ) ऊपर वर्णित छह खनन पट्टों में से चार में वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के उल्लंघन में काम चल रहा था जिसे माननीय उच्चतम न्यायालय के दिनांक 12.12.96 के आदेशों के बाद बंद किया गया। अन्य दो मामलों के संबंध में, खनन पट्टा सितम्बर, 1997 तक वैध था। तत्पश्चात् इस मंत्रालय ने पांच खनन पट्टों के संबंध में अस्थायी कार्यकरण की अनुमति मंजूरी प्रदान की यद्यपि इन प्रस्तावों पर अंतिम निर्णय लेने हेतु कार्रवाई की जा रही थी।

Condition of Caged Animals

1139. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to know the conditions of the caged animals and the environment in which they are kept by the city's research labs/hospital laboratories;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what measures have been taken by Government in cases where the rules laid down by the Indian National Science Association in this regard are violated; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Government of India have constituted a Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervising Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) in pursuance to the powers conferred by Sub-Section-I of Section-17 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Maneka Gandhi to suggest ways and means to ensure that animals are not subjected to unnecessary pain and suffering.

The Committee has authorised sixteen NGOs, concerned with animal rights, to supervise and inspect institutions where experiments on animals are being carried out in the country. These institutions include medical and veterinary colleges/ research institutions both in the Government and private sector and hospitals. Dr. Iqbal Mallik and Dr. Sindhu of Vatavaran, New Delhi have been authorised by the Committee to inspect the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Safdarjung Hospital, Institute of Immunology, Institute of Communicable diseases and Patel Chest Institute. In addition, an NGO called Friendicoes-SECA has been authorised to inspect Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Sucheta Kriplani Medical College, Delhi School of Medicines, Maulana Azad Medical Institute, Medical College of Delhi University, Escorts Heart Institute, Appollo Hospital, Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Gangaram Hospital.

(c) The guidelines prepared by the Indian National Science Association have been forwarded to a number of institutes/ research institutes/laboratories/hospitals using animals for experimental purposes. The reports of the NGOs authorised to inspect whether the guidelines laid down by the Indian National Science Association are being followed will be examined by the CPCSEA and action as per the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 will be taken for violation, if any.

(d) Does not arise.

Biosphere Reserve Areas

1140. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to declare 22 sites in the country as "biosphere reserve areas";

(b) if yes, the details thereof;

(c) whether such proposal have been received from M.P. and U.P.

Governments about certain areas to be declared as biosphere reserve areas; and

(d) if yes, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Twenty five potential sites have been identified/suggested for designation as Biosphere Reserves, out of which 9 sites have already been designated. A list of these sites is given in the Statement (*See* Below)

(c) and (d) Out of the four potential sites identified/suggested in the State of Madhya Pradesh, project documents for Pachmarhi and Kanha areas have been prepared. The State Government has agreed to and recommended notification of these sites as Biosphere Reserves. The proposals are being examined in the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the purpose. No proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh is pending for setting up of biosphere reserve.

Statement

Sites identified/suggested for designation of Biosphere Reserve

I. *Sites identified and notified as Bioshphere Reserves*

Name of the site	Location (State)
(i) Nanda Devi	Chamoli, Pithoragarh & Almora Districts (Uttar Pradesh)
(ii) Nokrek	Garo Hills (Meghalaya)
(iii) Manas	Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup and Darang Districts (Assam)
(iv) Sunderbans	Delta of Ganges & Brahamaputra river system (West Bengal)
(v) Gulf of Manar	Indian part of Gulf between India and Sri Lanka (Tamil Nadu)
(vi) Nilgiri	Wynad, Nagarhole, Bandipur and Madumalai, Nilambur, Silent Valley and Siruvani hills (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka)
(vii) Great Nicobar	Southern most Islands of Andaman and Nicobar (A & N Islands)
(viii) Similipal	Mayurbhanj District (Orissa)
(ix) Dibru-Saikhowa	Diburugarh and Tinsukia Districts (Assam)

II. Sites identified by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, but not yet notified

(i) Namdapha	Arunachal Pradesh
(ii) North Islands of Andamans	A & N Islands
(iii) Kaziranga	Assam
(iv) Thar Desert	Rajasthan
(v) Valley of Flowers	Uttar Pradesh
(vi) Kanha	Madhya Pradesh
(vii) Little Rann of Kutch	Gujarat

III. Sites suggested by State Government/ Expert groups/experts, but not yet notified

(i) Dehang Debang	Arunachal Pradesh
(ii) Abujmarh	Madhya Pradesh
(iii) Pachmarhi	Madhya Pradesh
(iv) Amar-kantak	Madhya Pradesh
(v) Kanchen-junga	Sikkim
(vi) Cold Desert	(Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh)

(vii)	Seshachalam	Andhra Pradesh
(viii)	Chintapalli	Andhra Pradesh
(ix)	Lakshadweep Islands	Lakshadweep

Toxicity Tests at Alag Shipyard

1141. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the expert team appointed to carry out toxicity tests on the two American ships which had arrived for "Breaking" at the Alag Shipyard and were reported to be carrying toxic material;

(b) whether the work of demolition of these ships has since been resumed; and

(c) the losses suffered by the two ship-breaking parties as a result of the stoppage of breaking operations on the orders of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) To assess the pollution potential of ship-breaking, a team of officials of the Central Pollution Control Board visited the Alang ship-breaking yard, Gujarat, on 26.7.97. Sea water samples tested were found to have high Oil and Grease contents (exceeding discharge limit of coastal area of 20 milligram/litre). The test results of the samples collected by the investigating team on 8.8.97 around the two US ships namely, the OVERSEAS VALDEZ and T.T. KITTANING indicated higher values of Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) and Oil and Greas.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The work of demolition of OVERSEAS VALDEZ and T.T. KITTANING were resumed on 22.8.97 after withdrawal of the order to maintain status-quo issued on 5.8.97. As per information made available by the Gujarat Maritime Board, total losses due to stoppage of ship-being operations was estimated as Rs.35.20 lakhs.

Revision of National Forest Policy

1142. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revise the National Forest Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Government have constituted a Committee on 21.10.97 to review the implementation of the National Forest Policy, 1988 and to suggest any change in the policy, if required.

Forest cover in the country

1143. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRIMATI CHANDRAKALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the minimum forest cover needed in India as far as environment and forest are concerned;

(b) the present position of State-wise land with forest cover;

(c) whether the existing laws in the country are enough to halt the process of denuding the forests;

(d) if so, the relevent sections of the existing laws; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The National Forest Policy, 1988 sets to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric equilibrium.

(b) A statement depicting extent of the land with forest cover is appended as statement (*See* below)